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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD EDITOR.

THE COMING YEAR.

"All bright with the fields of the harvest to-day,
Time moves to its destinies splendid."

With the opening of the New Year we send our most cordial greetings to all our readers and to all the friends of peace everywhere.

The past year has been one of signal triumph for our cause, in ways well known to all our coworkers. It has been for the most part a year of peace between the nations, such wars as have occurred being chiefly due to revolutionary disturbances and being confined to very narrow limits. For this let us be devoutly thankful. But more thankful still we should be for the changed public sentiment which has made it very difficult for any war to break out or, having begun, to continue long. The "great war in Europe" which has been for more than twenty years prophesied and yet has failed to come is now less likely than ever to satisfy the corrupt wishes of the lovers of the startling. There are peace movements on foot among the people and the statesmen of Europe that are more powerful than monstrous guns and huge standing armies, and any war that may break out will have to conquer a hitherto unknown resistance.

Our look is forward, not backward; one of hope and faith, not of doubt and despair. We are not blind to the threatenings of the powers of evil in the solidity of their present organization, nor to the long hard struggle yet to be had with them, but the future is God's, not the devil's. Under the regenerating power of the Redeemer of humanity, the Prince of Peace, truth and justice and liberty, love and forbearance and brotherliness have already made such gains in the world as to leave no doubt of the course which things are taking. Our prophecy is made ready to our hand, and we run no risks in uttering it. The immediate future may not be all peace, but even this will be largely so. Of the particular events to occur during the coming year or years, we know nothing. That they will be increasingly good and beneficent we are sure.

The friends of peace should, therefore, open their work for 1894 with increased energy and devotion and confidence. We are more numerous than formerly. Our hundreds have become thousands. The encouragement of increased numbers is always great. The lack of adequate financial resources should not be allowed to check too much our ardor. Heart and soul, thought and speech are worth more than money, and these can be constantly used in the circle in which each one moves. People are more ready everywhere than in former years to listen to peace

doctrine. It is not unusual now to find in unexpected places men who, entirely alone, have thought out this problem and become strong peace men.

We have reached the day of practical measures for the prevention of war, and as a consequence peace sentiment is rapidly massing itself. Once convinced that war is unnecessary for settling differences, or for maintaining the national dignity, men will not be long in setting the seal of their inmost condemnation upon its inherent absurdity and essential immorality.

Some of the truest and strongest friends of peace in different countries have recently been taken from us. It seems at first that we can poorly spare them just now, but their splendid example will live and from the ranks of the educated young men who are now turning their attention to the movement for peace the cause will receive worthy champions for the future.

The future is ours. Let us go to meet it with brave and trustful hearts.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message was given to Congress on the 4th of December. It disappointed the country in not saying as startling things about Hawaii as was expected. It is a long document, touching nearly all of the internal and external relations of the Government, but with the growth of the country and the great number of affairs with which the Government has to deal a President's message can no longer be short if it is to be of any value. About one-third of the present message is devoted to our foreign relations, of which the President says that while they "have not at all times during the past year been entirely free from perplexity, no embarrassing situation remains that will not yield to the spirit of fairness and love of justice which, joined with consistent firmness, characterize a truly American foreign policy."

We quote with great pleasure the entire passage referring to the

"PROGRESS OF ARBITRATION."

"By a concurrent resolution, passed by the Senate February 14, 1890, and by the House on the 3d of April following, the President was requested 'to invite, from time to time, as fit occasions may arise, negotiations with any government with which the United States has, or may have, diplomatic relations, to the end that any differences or disputes arising between the two governments, which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agency, may be referred to arbitration and be peaceably adjusted by such means.'"

"April 18, 1890, the International American Conference of Washington, by resolution, expressed the wish that all controversies between the republics of America and the nations of Europe might be settled by arbitration, and recommended that the Government of each nation represented in that Conference should communicate this wish to all friendly powers.